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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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USE THE SCHOOL HOUSES

Washington, Sept. 7.—John R. Commons, a member of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, has an interesting article in the current issue of La Follette's, under the caption, "School Houses as Employment Offices." Mr. Commons contends that the ideal organization for securing employment for the unemployed would be national in its scope, so that oversupply anywhere could be shifted to meet the demands elsewhere. He says that as it is impossible to get national action at once, State action should be begun. The factors entering into what is termed the "ideal labor market of a State" are enumerated as follows: Free employment offices maintained by the State; free employment offices maintained by local committees; private agencies regulated by the State; correspondents in various cities and industries; reports from all to a central clearing house; periodical bulletins of the labor market. In speaking of the school as a branch of the employment bureau, Mr. Commons says: "If each schoolhouse has a director of its social center service, he could be supplied with blanks from the main employment office. A workman, by going to the school nearest his house to register could be immediately connected with the whole organized labor market of the State." Then follows a discussion of bringing men into connection with the character of work they are qualified to perform, the reports from the various sections of the State being relied upon to do this service. The article concludes: "How to induce school teachers and principals to co-operate in this great agency is a matter that can be worked out when once its importance is understood. * * * With a broadening idea of the school as a social center and the employment of principals who are wide awake and alive to their social opportunities, the Industrial Commission could enlist them as a part of a comprehensive scheme for the State."

"SAFETY BY CLASSES."

Washington, Sept. 7.—In an article under the above caption, the Coast Seamen's Journal, published in San Francisco, brings to light many interesting facts. It has heretofore been understood that the chivalry of the sea had decreed that women and children should first receive protection, and that every man stood upon an equality with every other man, save the decrepit, in facing impending disaster. But the statistician has occupied his leisure hours making deductions from the Titanic tragedy, and as a result a London publication recently published some startling facts. It is shown that of the first-class passengers there were 61 per cent saved, 36 per cent of the second-class passengers were saved, 23 per cent of third-class passengers, and only 22 per cent of the crew. Of the first-class women passengers 97 per cent were saved; of the second-class passengers 84 per cent, and only 55 per cent of the third-class were rescued. All of the first and second class children were saved, while only 30 per cent of the third-class children survived.

THE LAWRENCE INDICTMENTS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Now that the president of the American Woolen Company, together with other alleged confederates, has been indicted for conspiring to distribute dynamite in Lawrence during the notable strike of the textile workers, together with the conviction of Undertaker Breen for having brought in dynamite with felonious intent, there seems destined to be told another story. A case of suicide in connection with this case throws another shadow on the proceedings. If any of those indicted are found guilty severe punishment should be inflicted. But they should be permitted to present their defense, if they have any, and judgment not pronounced until both sides are heard. If present developments are sustained no doubt the government will get into the case in reference to interstate shipments of high explosives.

NOLAN GETS NOMINATION.

San Francisco, Sept. 7.—John I. Nolan, secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council and closely identified with the Iron Trades Council, has been nominated for Congress from the Fifth District. This Congressional district is a stronghold of union labor voters, and under the recent reapportionment the Fourth and Fifth Districts are wholly within the city limits of San Francisco. Nolan is popular among his fellows, and it is confidently expected that he will be elected in November by a tremendously large vote.

CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR.

Washington, Sept. 7.—William Hughes, a member of the labor group in Congress for a number of years, of Paterson, N. J., has announced himself as a candidate for the United States Senate from that State. His petition has been filed with the Secretary of State as a candidate for the Democratic primary nomination. Congressman Hughes is the author of the eight-hour bill which recently passed Congress, and has been active as a member of the labor group in all of the measures advocated by labor.

EMPLOYMENT FOR 60,000.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 7.—The superintendent of the State free employment bureau of this State has issued a report covering the year, August 1, 1911, to August 1, 1912. It shows that in three cities—St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth—the bureau has secured positions for 59,472 persons. The appropriation for the conduct of this character of work was only $10,000, yet the results shown are highly gratifying.

SHINGLE WEAVERS' NEWS.

Seattle, Sept. 7.—Shingle packers employed in and around Raymond, Wash., recently went on strike for an advance of 10 cents per thousand, 1 cent above the union scale. The demands were granted by all mills involved inside of three days, except one, which is closed temporarily for lack of timber. No difficulty is anticipated in signing up this mill.

LABOR'S TWO HOLIDAYS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Reports from every State in the Union are to the effect that Labor Sunday and Labor Day were more generally observed this year than at any previous time in the history of the American labor movement. This fact indicates that the activity among members of organized labor is general throughout the country.

STATE MINERS' HOSPITAL.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The contract for the plans and specifications for the new miners' hospital to be built at Frostburg, Md., has been awarded to a company of architects. The last Legislature of Maryland appropriated $25,000 for the construction of the hospital.

PARCELS POST PREPARATION

Washington, Sept. 7.—The officials of the Post-office Department are getting in readiness to put into general operation the parcels post system on January 1 next, which is authorized in the post-office appropriation bill. The parcels post business will not only cover in its ramifications all systems of transportation now utilized by private express companies, but will be extended also to more than a million miles of rural delivery and star route service. Aside from the committee comprising members of the Senate and House, the Post-office Department has also appointed a number of chiefs of departments to assist the committee in working out the plans. The law admits to the mails practically all farm and garden as well as factory products, provided such articles do not weigh more than eleven pounds or exceed seventy-two inches in combined length and girth. The mode of packing will be carefully prescribed. The present equipment of the mail service, it is stated, is not adapted to the carriage of such merchandise, and therefore new equipment will be provided. The law also provides that postage on all parcels post be prepaid by affixing distinctive stamps. It is also provided by law that there shall be indemnification for lost or damaged articles. The question of adequate transportation and terminal facilities for the parcels post on railway and steamboat lines and the city wagon service is one that has to be worked out in order to insure the prompt movement of such mail and prevent clogging. It is believed that by the time the law is to be put into operation all preparations necessary and that slight friction will occur.

RULES ON EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Washington, Sept. 7.—In an interpretation of the new eight-hour law Attorney General Wickersham has decided that the government may enter into contracts, without restricting the hours of Labor, for the purchase of supplies and other articles exempted by the act, even though the government itself has occasionally manufactured these articles. Several questions have been raised in reference to army contracts. The new law specifically excepts supplies purchased in the open market, but provides that all kinds of work "which have been, are now, or may hereafter be performed by the government shall, when done by contract, by individuals, firms, or corporations for or on behalf of the United States," &c., shall be performed in accordance with the eight-hour provisions of the act. This law does not go into effect until January 1 next, but in order to forestall the letting of contracts prior to January 1 to firms working their employes a greater number of hours than eight, eight-hour provisions are contained in the fortification bill, and the naval bill which prohibit an excess of eight hours' labor by the letter carriers and clerks in post-offices.

MOLDERS GET AGREEMENT.

Holyoke, Mass., Sept. 7.—At a recent conference between representatives of the Molders' Union and representatives of the employers in this city, Springfield, Westfield and Chicopee, assisted by representatives of the International Iron Molders' Union, an agreement was reached covering twenty-eight shops in the cities mentioned. By the agreement the wages of the molders were increased from $3 to $3.25, and the wages of the coremakers were increased from $2.75 to $3.10, until January 1, 1914, when the coremakers get another increase of 15 cents, equaling the minimum of the molders. The life of the agreement is two years and four months. This agreement will have a beneficial effect on the foundries in Easthampton, Greenfield, Turner Falls, Florence and Northampton, as it is understood the molders in these places have asked for concessions.

MOVING FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Lance, Toronto, Canada, prints this item: "The Ontario government has finally decided to make a move with regard to the eight-hour day for miners. Samuel Price, government mining commissioner, has been instructed to go north and make a thorough investigation of the whole question, reporting to the Legislature in time for the next session. It will be remembered that Sir James Whitney introduced a bill giving an eight-hour day to miners, following a notice by Mr. Rowell of his intention to present a similar bill. Strong opposition was raised by the mine owners, and the government bill was withdrawn, to the great indignation of the miners. Sir James sometimes finds it necessary to think twice, and his second thought in this case was an exhibition of good judgment. In some other mining districts second thoughts would be equally beneficial to the miners."

IRON WORKERS VICTORIOUS.

San Francisco, Sept. 7.—The Iron Workers of San Francisco and Oakland have won a signal victory. After a strike of a few days, the Erectors' Association of the Pacific jurisdiction conceded all the demands of the Structural Iron Workers, which includes an increase of $1 per day and double time for overtime. There were involved in the controversy approximately 350 iron workers. In the face of prevailing sentiment, the victory is a notable one, and emphasizes the solidarity of the Western Coast unionists.

TO CUT LIVING COST.

New York, N. Y., Sept. 7.—The first large public market to be established in the metropolitan section to reduce the cost of living has been opened in Queens Borough by the Citizen's Committee with initial success. The reduction in the prices of fruits and vegetables approximated about one-half of that charged at the city stores. The committee that has the market in charge expect that upon the demonstration of success of the general market to open a chain of similar establishments all over the city.

LABOR DAY IN COLUMBUS.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 7.—President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, delivered the Labor Day address in this city. The greater portion of his remarks were directed to an appeal to the Ohio unionists to use every endeavor to have the new constitution of the State adopted. The new constitution contains many reformatory provisions which were incorporated as the direct result of the efforts of the group of trade unionists delegates in the convention.

STEAMBOAT INSPECTORS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Federal steamboat inspectors from all over the country were in session in this city on the 6th and 7th, and considered the complaints of steamboats regarding navigation regulations. The question of lifeboat and other equipment were given special attention.

OPENS CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Washington, Sept. 7.—Miss Julia Lathrop, appointed by President Taft as chief of the Children's Bureau, provision for which bureau was authorized by the present Congress, has opened a temporary office in the Department of Commerce and Labor annex. With the passage of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill in the closing hours of the second session of the Sixty-second Congress, the salaries for officers of the new bureau became available, and allows the work of organizing the Children's Bureau to proceed. This bureau is authorized to investigate and report upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life, and will especially investigate the questions of infant mortality, the birth rate, orphanage, juvenile courts, desertions, dangerous occupations, accidents, and diseases of children, employment, legislation affecting children in the several States and Territories, and such other facts as have a bearing on the welfare of children. Three appointments have already been made by Miss Lathrop, a private secretary, an assistant, and a statistician.

HONOLULU STRIKE WON.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Union of Masters, Mates and Pilots, of Honolulu, some months ago requested the masters of the vessels plying between the various islands to increase their wages and make other concessions. After endeavoring for many months to secure a peaceful settlement, the Inter-Island Steamship Company evidently believed that the men were lacking the stamina to stand for their demands, and upon the receipt of a firm, though courteous letter, the steamship officials returned it, claiming "that it was offensive." Immediately, as soon as the vessels reached Honolulu, the men quietly left their posts and did not return, and the whole fleet has been tied up since August 3. But a settlement has been reached, and the men have returned to work. The new agreement runs for three years, and provides for the reinstatement of all men, payment of overtime, an increase of 15 per cent in regular pay, two weeks' vacation annually with pay, and the strikers secured pay for the time they were on strike.

ONLY UNION MINED COAL.

Washington, Sept. 7.—A bill providing that all public institutions of the State of Indiana shall be required to burn coal mined with eight-hour labor will be introduced in the next session of the Indiana Legislature. It is reported that many coal operators are in favor of the measure and will use their influence with other operators of the State. The bill will be broad enough in its scope to include all the coal burned by the penal, benevolent, and educational institutions of the State. The bill will be included in the list of questions to be submitted by the legislative committee of the United Mine Workers to every candidate on the legislative ticket. The bill, if passed, will mean that contracts now let to coal companies outside the State employing nonunion miners will be let to Indiana coal companies. It promises to be bitterly fought by outside corporations which have been underbidding Indiana coal companies. According to legal advice, the bill will, if enacted, pass muster before the courts.

STATUS OF SEAMEN'S BILL.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Upon the passage of the seamen's bill by the House it went to the Senate and was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and, in turn, referred to a subcommittee, which has held hearings, but the bill has not been reported back to the full committee. Senator La Follette, on August 1, inquired as to the status of the bill. Senator Crawford of South Dakota, a member of the subcommittee, stated that it had been decided that in the last week of November, before the regular session begins, the subcommittee would give a week to the consideration of the bill; that the members of the subcommittee would come to Washington for that purpose, giving an opportunity for all interested to be heard, with a view to getting in a report early in the session, so that the bill may come up without any undue delay for disposition at the next session.

NEW INSPECTION METHODS.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 7.—Scientific methods are to replace the old system of factory inspection in Illinois. In a recent civil service examination for factory inspectors, men specialized for different classes of inspection passed. For mechanical appliance inspectors, mechanics alone qualified; for ventilation inspectors, experts on the subject secured the positions, and for structural iron work and all of the other classes, an expert in each trade was made an inspector. Physicians qualified for inspectors in factories which use or manufacture poisonous substances. The chief factory inspector said: "The whole system which is now being put into operation will be scientific. The old plan of merely sending a man to look over a factory and saying whether or not the cogs should be covered is to be abandoned."

CANADIAN MACHINISTS.

Toronto, Sept. 7.—The machinists employed on the railroads of Canada will meet in convention in this city, beginning September 16. The body is a new section decided on recently by referendum vote, and comprises in its scope all of Canada. It is expected that seventy-five delegates will be in attendance. The Grand Trunk Pacific strike in the West and conditions on the Grand Trunk Railway lines east of Fort William will be discussed and action taken thereon.

ADOPT COMMISSION FORM.

New Orleans, Sept. 7.—A commission form of government, including the right of initiative and referendum, was adopted at a special election here August 28. At the general election in November a constitutional amendment will be voted upon, the carrying of which will mean that the right of recall will also be made a feature of the commission government.

PARCELS POST STAMPS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Designs are being made by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for a dozen new stamps that are to be used in the parcel post service. These stamps will range in denomination from 1 cent to $1.

RAILWAY CARMEN.

Kansas City, Sept. 7.—The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has recently organized two lodges, one at Muskogee, Okla., and one in Pennsylvania, with encouraging prospects for a large membership.

JULY IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Commerce and Labor, has just issued its July immigration bulletin. Like former months, the tide of immigration from Southern Italy still leads in point of numbers, the July record showing 10,959. Then comes the following list: Polish, 10,576; Hebrew, 9,275; Greek, 6,122; German, 5,712; English, 4,195. The remaining number of immigrants were distributed between thirty-three different nationalities, the grand total for the month mentioned being 78,101. Divided according to occupations there were admitted during July 16,543 farm laborers, 33,637 laborers, and 9,604 servants. In the trades there were admitted during the same period 1,966 tailors and 1,051 carpenters and joiners, the remainder of the trades being represented by only a moderate number of immigrants. The total immigration for the year ended June 30, 1912, reached 838,172, while during the same period 333,262 emigrant aliens departed, leaving a net increase of immigrant aliens of 504,910. The year 1912 shows a decrease over the year 1911 of 40,415, and a decrease of 302,398 over 1910. The year 1908-9, subsequent to the financial stringency of 1907, shows a decrease ranging from 50,000 to 80,000 below the total immigration for 1912. During the last year New York absorbed 229,275 immigrants, while Pennsylvania got 102,625, with Massachusetts, 70,171; Illinois, 67,118; New Jersey, 47,211; Ohio, 38,148; Michigan, 33,559; California, 28,905; Connecticut, 23,227, and Texas, 22,885. All the States in the Union are represented as places of destination, but the figures and States given give an idea of the sections of the country into which the tide of immigration reaches its highest point.

MORE PAY FOR THOUSANDS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—In accordance with the terms of the post-office appropriation bill passed by the recent session of Congress, the salaries of rural letter carriers on standard routes are increased from $1,000 to $1,100 per year. This affects 30,000 carriers, while proportionate increases are to go to carriers on shorter routes. An order putting into operation the increase has just been issued by the Post-office Department, and will become effective September 30. This means an increase in the salaries of $4,000,000 per year, and is the second salary advance for rural carriers made in the last four years. The record of the increase in the scope and area of the service is interesting. The rural delivery system was instituted sixteen years ago, and carriers were then employed at a total annual cost of $14,840, the maximum individual pay being $200 a year. At the close of the last fiscal year, June 30, there were 42,031 rural mail carriers, their aggregate pay being $40,655,740.

THE DAILY TRAGEDY.

Washington, Sept. 7.—A press dispatch from Steubenville, Ohio, states that during the inspection of the Mingo Junction plant of the Carnegie Steel Company by James A. Farrell, President of the United States Steel Corporation, and thirty officials of the company, a delay was occasioned in the inspection until the body of Joseph Byers could be removed from an eighteen-inch roll, where the man had been crushed to death. After the removal of the body the roll was cleaned and the inspection of the steel officials resumed.

INCREASE OF MILLIONS.

London, Sept. 7.—The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, which led the strike of a year ago for a betterment of the condition of railway workers, has finally reaped its reward. Under the amended railway conciliation scheme complete settlements have been made with most of the railway systems. The increase in wages granted aggregates approximately $10,000,000 per year, besides the reduction of hours secured in many branches of the railway service.

WOMAN FOR CONGRESS.

Denver, Sept. 7.—Katherine Williamson, a member of the Typographical Union for twenty-nine years, is an aspirant for Congressional honors from the State of Colorado. This State, as is known, has woman suffrage, and women take a lively interest in politics here. Miss Williamson is a candidate for the nomination on the Democratic ticket, and the primaries are to be held on September 10.

SCOTCH MOLDERS WANT MORE.

London, Sept. 7.—A joint demand has been made by the Associated Iron Molders of Scotland and the Central Iron Molders' Association upon the Federation of Iron and Steel Founders for an advance to cover Scotland entire of ½d per hour and 1s per week on weekly wages. The General Laborers' and Gas Workers' Union has also intimated to the employers a demand for a 12½ per cent increase to all foundry workers in that organization.

A NEW POSTAL GUIDE.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Postmaster General has approved and authorized for distribution a new edition of the handbook of postal information, containing matters of interest and instruction regarding the postal system for use of the general public. Copies will be supplied to all postmasters on requisition, and can be given by them to the patrons of their offices on request. This distribution is gratuitous.

ATLANTA PRESSMEN STRIKE.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 7.—The web pressmen on the three Atlanta newspapers went on strike August [illegible] after failing to negotiate a new wage scale with the newspaper owners, the old agreements expiring on the date mentioned. About forty or fifty men are affected.

CURTAIL GENERAL DELIVERY

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Post-office Department is back of a plan to curtail the volume of mail matter going through the general delivery in this city. It is a matter of common knowledge that abuses have grown up as the result of no limitations being placed upon the distribution of mail through this medium. In large and medium sized cities, it is true, there is always a transient population that, as a matter of convenience and safety, receive their mail through the general delivery. In many cases also temporary and permanent residents can with propriety use the general delivery, but as a rule permanent residents in a city where a carrier service is in vogue have no justifiable reason to receive mail through the general delivery, except under extraordinary circumstances. The greatest abuse of the general delivery, however, is the clandestine correspondence carried on between parties who fear publicity. That this is a matter of common knowledge goes without saying, but the volume of this correspondence has increased with time, and the department proposes to reduce it to the minimum. Attendants at the delivery windows are authorized to propound questions to those inquiring for mail, and if not satisfactorily answered the mail may be held pending an investigation. This plan has been proposed in other cities, but this is the first attempt on the part of the government to eradicate a growing abuse.

COAL PRICE INQUIRY ON.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor has designated Commissioner Neill of the Bureau of Labor to investigate and report how much the cost of coal has been increased to the general consumer since the settlement with the miners in the anthracite fields, to which the resolution of inquiry was specifically directed. It was stated before the House Committee that had the resolution of inquiry under consideration that the anthracite operators advanced the price of coal 25 cents per ton at retail. It is expected that Commissioner Neill will ascertain for what reason and by what means the cost was raised. Another line of inquiry will be to determine how much and in what particulars the coal miners were benefited by the agreement. In support of the resolution of inquiry it was argued that the miner did not get nearly all the increase being paid by the general consumer. Commissioner Neill has already made a preliminary survey of the field, and it is apprehended that a corps of trained investigators of the bureau will begin work immediately to gather the desired details.

TELEGRAPHERS IN EARNEST.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers on the Pennsylvania railroad system have been endeavoring for more than a year to secure a conference with the officials of that road for the purpose of submitting a new wage scale and other requests for improvements. The officials have sidestepped and evaded every effort of the committee having the matter in charge to get a conference. Finally, in answer to a recent letter sent by the committee representing the telegraphers, all correspondence was returned to the committee with an evasive reply, which amounted to a flat refusal to enter into any negotiations. The committee represents the employes on the Pennsylvania lines east of Pittsburg and Erie. President Perham has now been called into the situation, and ballots have been sent to all telegraphers in the territory mentioned for the purpose of determining whether the employes desire to back up their demands for a readjustment of the wage scale and other conditions.

CARPENTERS' CONVENTION.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The biennial convention of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners will convene in this city September 16 at the National Rifles Hall. Among the important questions which will be discussed will be the location of the proposed home for the aged and infirm members of the union. Definite action to erect a home of this character was taken at the Des Moines, Iowa, convention two years ago, and since then the officials of the brotherhood have been considering ways and means whereby such a home can be provided, and a report will be submitted at the coming convention. It is expected that the delegates to this convention will number approximately 700. The headquarters will be at the Metropolitan Hotel, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY MEN.

Washington, Sept. 7.—President Lowe, of the Maintenance of Way Men, reports that the organization has just secured concessions from the Dominion Atlantic Railway, in Nova Scotia, in the shape of a 7 per cent increase for foremen and 8 per cent for section men, with a first-class schedule of working rules, giving promotion in accordance of seniority, pay for overtime, which includes work done on Sunday and Christmas day, investigation for men suspended or dismissed or otherwise considered unjustly treated, and reinstated and paid for lost time should the investigation show that workmen were blameless.

FOR FIVE-DAY WEEK.

Washington, Sept. 7.—At the recent session of the International Miners' Congress at Amsterdam the English delegates proposed a uniform policy of working five days per week, and the congress acted favorably upon the proposal. The date on which to inaugurate the shorter work week was left in abeyance until the next session of the congress. The congress also committed itself to the plan, as a safety measure, to the employment of mine inspectors elected by the miners and paid by the State, the mines to be inspected as often as the men demand it.

FOR BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

Washington, Sept. 7.—A delegation of New Yorkers have been in this city endeavoring to persuade the Secretary of the Navy to construct the $15,000,000 battleship recently authorized by Congress in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. This yard is the only government navy yard on the Atlantic which has the necessary equipment to construct a ship of the dimensions of the prospective vessel, the Pennsylvania.

PARLEYING ABOUT WAGES.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Representatives of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors are conferring with the representatives of the ten railroad companies in the Southeastern section of the country over the matter of readjusting the wage schedules and working conditions. It is asserted that it is probable an amicable settlement will be reached.

FIVE JOINT COMMISSIONS

Washington, Sept. 7.—As soon as the Presidential campaign is over five joint commissions of Senators and Representatives will begin investigations of various subjects. Congress by resolution made provision for these commissions and prescribed their duties. The following are the subjects for inquiry, the members of the various commissions, and the motive for the investigation:

For the investigation of conditions surrounding the sale of American-grown tobacco to foreign markets: Senators Martin, Lodge, and Brandegee, and Representatives Flood, Stedman, and McKinley make up the commission. The inquiry grows out of charges that five foreign governments have formed a combination to depress the price of American-grown tobacco.

To assist in putting into operation and study of the parcels post. Senators Briggs, Bristow, and Bryan, and Representatives Finley, Lewis, and Gardner (New Jersey) comprise the commission.

Senators Guggenheim and Smith (Georgia) and Representatives Blackmon and Murdock are to inquire into the feasibility of government ownership of a pneumatic tube postal service.

Senators Bourne, Richardson, and Bankhead, and Representatives Lloyd, Tuttle, and Weeks are commissioned to recommend changes in the second-class mail postage rates and work out a plan of readjustment of railway mail pay.

Good roads are to receive the attention of Senators Bourne, Penrose, Gronna, Swanson, and Overman, and Representatives Shackelford, Lee, McGillicuddy, Mann, and Austin. The feasibility of government aid in road construction in the various States and parts of States, including the desirability of the Federal government establishing certain good roads of its own, will be investigated and reported upon.

PAPER MAKERS' NEWS.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 7.—New local unions attached to the Brotherhood of Paper Makers have been recently organized at Hoboken, N. J.; Chateagay, N. Y., and Eau Claire, Wis. The paper makers at Cloquet, Minn., have secured an agreement in which the eight-hour day was conceded on September 1. The De Grasse Paper Company, of Pyrites, N. Y., manufacturers of news print, now use the union label on the entire product of the mill. The strike of the paper makers of the Kalamazoo Paper Company, the Bryant Paper Company, the King Paper Company, the Monarch Paper Company, at Kalamazoo, Mich., for the eight-hour day and discontinuance of Sunday labor, which began on June 27, is still in force. The mills of the four companies mentioned are still closed down, although the companies are making every effort to secure nonunion help, but so far without success.

AN INFORMAL SPREAD.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 7.—Upon the occasion of the visit of President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, to this city to testify in the retrial of the hatters' case, an informal dinner was arranged by the leading and active unionists in the Central body. President Gompers, in his address following the dinner, paid his respects to Detective Burns and all other agencies that are hostile to the American Federation of Labor. Secretary Morrison, Peter J. Conlon, vice president of the International Association of Machinists; Frank Mulholland, one of the attorneys for the hatters; Simon Blake and Martin Lawlor, president and secretary, respectively, of the United Hatters, and officers of the Central body delivered addresses.

RETRIAL OF HATTERS' CASE.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 7.—President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, testified in the retrial of the hatters' case recently. Attorney Davenport, for the Anti-Boycott Association, who is conducting the prosecution, gleaned the information from President Gompers that he was "responsible" for the articles published in the American Federationist. Much questioning was indulged in by the prosecution relative to the phrase that appeared in the Federationist, "There is no law to compel a man to wear a Loewe hat." Secretary Morrison was interrogated along the same lines as was President Gompers, and in addition financial matters in connection with the hatters was inquired into. The trial will undoubtedly be of considerable length.

POST-OFFICE SUNDAY LAW.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Postmaster General has forwarded instructions to all postmasters in post-offices of the first and second class an interpretation of the post-office bill with reference to Sunday mail. These instructions will enable hotels, newspaper offices, and newsdealers to obtain their mail on Sundays. It is also made possible for persons expecting mail of exceptional importance to obtain it in emergency cases on Sunday by making application to the postmaster. Special delivery letters will also receive prompt delivery on Sunday. It is now considered that the interpretation of this law has reached its finality and will reduce the number of people employed in post-offices to the minimum.

MORE WORK FOR NAVY YARD.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Plans have been completed by the Treasury Department for the construction of four revenue-cutters authorized by the second session of the Sixty-second Congress. Four new cutters are provided for, to cost $925,000, which will displace three veteran craft—the Manhattan, Woodbury, and Winona—these vessels having been in service from twenty-two to forty-seven years. In addition to the replacing of the three vessels mentioned, a $250,000 cutter will make up the shortage of the present Alaskan fleet caused by the loss of the Perry two years ago.

GRANITE CUTTERS SCORE.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Organizer Flett, of the American Federation of Labor, reporting from Quebec, Canada, states that an agreement has been secured by the Granite Cutters' Union with a large contracting firm now engaged in the construction work on the Quebec bridge, whereby members of the Granite Cutters' Union only will be employed, the eight-hour day established as well as other union conditions. Prior to the settlement mentioned the job was nonunion and the ten-hour day was in vogue.

LABOR MEN RENOMINATED.

Washington, Sept. 7.—As a result of the recent primaries in Wisconsin William J. Cary and Victor L. Berger have both been renominated, the former being a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union and the latter of the Typographical Union.

RECOMMEND EIGHT HOURS

Washington, Sept. 7.—The report of the special commission appointed by the International Association for Labor Legislation to inquire into the subject of "hours of labor in continuous industries" has been made public only recently. In 1910, at a delegate meeting in Lugano, it was declared that the twelve-hour day customary in continuous industries was injurious to health, and the appointment of the commission resulted. The commission has held meetings with nine European countries, and the United States represented. The general conference of the association will be held this month in Zurich, and the commission's report will be undoubtedly acted upon favorably. The commissioners express the opinion that the eight-hour shift in continuous industries (industries working night and day), is the best shift system for such work, and they strongly recommend it, both from the point of view of the physical and moral welfare of the workers, and in the social and economic interests of society generally. They consider that in iron and steel industries the eight-hour day is very necessary and is practicable, and they urge that the various governments should be asked to arrange a conference of the interested States, with a view to arriving at an international agreement as to the introduction of the eight-hour day in these industries. The commissioners also report that in the United Kingdom there has been of late years a marked tendency toward the eight-hour system in the iron and steel trade, in some important sections of which it has been successfully introduced. It is also asserted that experience of the working of the different processes, where the eight-hour day has been introduced; all goes to show that there are, as a rule, no serious technical difficulties to be encountered when changing from the twelve to the eight hour shift. In such special cases, where it is necessary or very desirable for the same man to work continuously for a longer spell (as in some work in glass factories), the commission is of the opinion that a maximum week should be established.

MANUFACTURERS BUSY.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The National Manufacturers' Association has sent out circulars pointing out the fact that the Democratic House of Representatives passed a number of measures in the interest of labor, and also points to the labor planks in the Democratic platform. In fact, the National Manufacturers' Association, in substance, advise its supporters to throw their support against any party that gives labor any recognition. This was to be expected, but it is doubtful whether the association will be able to wield any substantial influence with the various progressive issues commanding the center of the stage. The passage of the injunction limitation bill by the House, as well as the contempt bill, had the effect of putting a magnificent dent in the Manufacturers' Association when the vote by which these two bills passed is considered.

SIOUX CITY ACTIVITIES.

Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 7.—During the recent past the teamsters, bookbinders, hod carriers and a building trades council have been organized. The nonunion barber shops of the city have been violating the law by keeping open Sunday, thus placing a serious difficulty in the path of the shops employing union barbers, and observing the Sunday closing law. Organizer Flood, of the A. F. of L., who is here doing organizing work, filed complaint, and secured the arrest of a number of proprietors of shops violating the law, and fines have been assessed in each case, with the result that those who have been mulcted are keeping their places closed. The Sunday violators were charging 25 cents for a shave. The electricians, who still remain in affiliation with the seceding faction, have been unseated in the central body.

RECENT RAILROAD WRECKS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—A passenger train on the Chicago and Northwestern was wrecked thirty miles north of Green Bay, Wis., by a washout, killing five and injuring twenty-one others. Three men were killed, one fatally injured, and eight slightly hurt on the Pennsylvania road near Pittsburg by a passenger train running into a wrecking crew cleaning up a freight wreck. On the M. K. & T., near Temple, Tex., a train jumped the track and plunged over a trestle, killing one, seriously injuring two, and slightly injuring fifteen others. On the Canadian Pacific a misplaced switch caused a collision, causing three deaths and injuring several others. On the Colorado and Southern near Trinidad, Colo., an engine exploded, and it being one of a double-header both engine crews were killed.

GOOD JOB FOR ANTIS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The press dispatches announce that deep resentment is felt in China over the British demand for Tibetan autonomy. Many of the Chinese merchants in Tientsin and other cities threaten retaliation for what they regard as an insult, and propose to boycott all British goods entering Chinese ports. Here is a chance for Kirby, Post, and Attorneys Emery and Davenport, of the American Anti-Boycott Association, to gain international distinction by persuading England to become a member of that delectable organization or establish a branch over the sea.

BRITISH CONGRESS MEETS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The annual session of the British Trade Union Congress opened its sessions on September 2 with a large number of delegates. William J. Thorne, Laborite member of Parliament for West Ham, is president of the congress. John H. Walker, of Illinois, coal miner, and George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen's Union, are fraternal delegates to the congress from the American Federation of Labor and are in attendance.

ASBESTOS WORKERS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The officers recently elected at the convention of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers are: President J. A. Mullaney; first, second and third vice presidents, Abram Olson, A. H. Rudd, and John McCormack; secretary-treasurer, Thomas J. McNamara.

NEW WAGE AGREEMENT.

San Francisco, Sept. 7.—The Stationary Firemen report an agreement with the Great Western Power Company, which carries an increase of wages and also insures the continuance of the eight-hour